

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is requiring the election of a single species as follows:

The method of Claim 1, and

the method of Claim 50.

Applicants provisionally elect the method of Claim 1, with traverse on the grounds that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of lack of unity of invention between the identified groups. Also, it has not been shown that a burden exists in searching the claims of the two groups.

Moreover, the M.P.E.P. at § 803 states as follows:

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.”

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all of the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office.

Claims 1-16 are readable on the elected species.

Finally, Applicants respectfully submit that, should Claims 1-16 be found allowable, the Office should expand its search to Claims 50-58.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Election Requirement.

Withdrawal of the Election Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in
condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

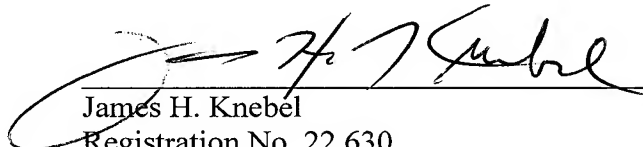
Respectfully submitted,

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